

CLAIMS

1. A time display apparatus including a display unit and a control unit, the display unit being provided with an indicator portion of variable area and the control unit being operative to alter the area of the indicator portion in accordance with a first unit of time to be displayed, the or an additional control unit being operative to alter the visual appearance of the indicator portion, without altering the area of the indicator portion, in accordance with a second unit of time to be displayed, wherein the first unit of time is a minute, and the second unit of time is an hour.
2. A time display apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the display unit includes a colour display, and the control unit is operative to alter the colour of the indicator portion in accordance with the second unit of time to be displayed.
3. A time display apparatus according to any preceding claim wherein the indicator portion is patterned, and the control unit is operative to alter the pattern of the indicator portion in accordance with the second unit of time to be displayed.
4. A time display apparatus according to any preceding claim wherein the indicator portion has the shape of a generally rectangular bar, the control unit being operative to alter the length of the bar in accordance with the first unit of time to be displayed.
5. A time display apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the indicator portion has the shape of a segment of an annulus, the control unit being operative to alter the circumferential extent of the indicator portion in accordance with the first unit of time to be displayed.

6. A time display apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the indicator portion has the shape of a segment of a circle, the control unit being operative to alter the angle subtended by the segment in accordance with the first unit of time to be displayed.

7. A time display apparatus according to any preceding claims wherein the control unit is operative to increase the area of the indicator portion as the value of the first unit of time to be displayed increases.

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8. A time display apparatus according to any preceding claim wherein the display unit includes a liquid crystal display, part of which forms the indicator portion.

9. A timepiece including a display unit and a control unit, the display unit being provided with an indicator portion of variable area and the control unit being operative to alter the area of the indicator portion in accordance with a first unit of time to be displayed and, the or an additional control unit being operative to alter the visual appearance of the indicator portion, without altering the area of the indicator portion, in accordance with a second unit of time to be displayed.

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10. A time display apparatus substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and/or as shown in the accompanying drawings.

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11. A timepiece substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and/or as shown in the accompanying drawings.

12. Any novel feature or novel combination of features as hereinbefore described with reference to and/or as shown in the accompanying drawings.